

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed September 9, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 32 remain pending. In particular, claims 28 – 32 have been added, and claims 1, 4 and 12 have been amended. In this regard, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the cross section of the first retaining portion differs from those of other parts of the fixing pin. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in FIGs. 4, 5 and 7 of the drawings. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 5, 6, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicant has added new independent claims 28 – 32, which correspond to claims 22, 23 and 25 – 27, respectively. Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that these claims are in condition for allowance. With respect to claims 5, 6, 17 and 18, Applicant has amended the base claims from which these claims depend in order to place these claims in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Claims

The Office Action indicates that claims stand objected to because of various informalities. As set forth above, Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully asserts that the rejections have been accommodated.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-4, 7-16, 19, 20, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Schwarzbich* (U.S. Patent No. 6,585,447; hereinafter “*Schwarzbich*”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons discussed below.

With respect to *Schwarzbich*, the Office Action indicates that the bottom threads of *Schwarzbich*’s connecting screw 20 correspond to Applicant’s “first retaining portion.” However, the cross section is the same (circular) throughout the threaded portion of *Schwarzbich*’s connecting screw 20. Thus, *Schwarzbich* does not teach or otherwise disclose that the cross section of the bottom threads differs from those of other parts of the connecting screw 20.

Turning now to the claims, amended claim 1 recites:

1. A lock structure, comprising:
 - a first element having a guide hole and a first through hole located co-axially with the guide hole;
 - a second element disposed under the first element and having a second through hole aligned with the first through hole;
 - a guiding element rotatably and movably disposed in the guide hole, wherein the guiding element has a third through hole aligned with the first through hole; and
 - a fixing pin inserted through the third through hole, the guide hole, the first through hole and the second through hole and having a first retaining portion, wherein the first retaining portion is formed on the lower portion of the fixing pin and located under the second element, and ***the cross section of the first retaining portion differs from those of other parts of the fixing pin.***

(*Emphasis added*).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Schwarzbich* does not teach or otherwise otherwise disclose at least the limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 1 be placed in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 – 4 and 7 – 11 are

dependent claims that incorporate the limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims also be placed in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 12, that claim recites:

12. A method for using a lock structure having a first element, a second element, a guiding element and a fixing pin, the first element having a guide hole and a first through hole located under the guide hole, the second element disposed under the first element and having a second through hole corresponding to the first through hole, the guiding element rotatably and movably disposed in the guide hole and having a third through hole corresponding to the first through hole, the fixing pin having a first retaining portion formed on the lower portion of the fixing pin, ***the cross section of the first retaining portion differing from those of other parts of the fixing pin***, comprising the steps of:

- (a) rotating the guiding element to advance the guiding element into the guide hole;
- (b) fitting the fixing pin into the third through hole, guide hole, first through hole and second through hole to locate the first retaining portion thereof under the second element;
- (c) rotating the fixing pin by an angle in a first direction to rotate the first retaining portion thereof by the angle; and
- (d) rotating the guiding element to move the guiding element in the guide hole until the first retaining portion of the fixing pin abuts the second element.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Schwarzbich* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the limitations emphasized above in claim 12. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 12 be placed in condition for allowance. Since claims 13 - 16, 19, 20, 21 and 24 are dependent claims that incorporate the limitations of claim 12, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims also be placed in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 28 – 32 have been added. Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance because each corresponds to one of claims 22, 23 and 25 – 27, the allowability of which was set forth in the Office Action.

Cited Art Made of Record


The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee (beyond that provided in the accompanying credit card authorization form) is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any additional fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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